

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 114614

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UNCLAS STATE 114614

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 114614 ACTION CINCPACREP GUAM 16 MAY

QUOTE:

UNCLAS STATE 114614

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: LETTER TO CONCEPCION CRUZ BARRETT, GUAM LEGISLATOR

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO CONCEPCION CRUZ BARRETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIARY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, THIRTEENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE.

2. QUOTE: DEAR SENATOR BARRETT, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED ME TO RESPOND TO YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 29. WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE HOSPITALITY OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF GUAM IN PROVIDING SHELTER TO CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WHO FLED THEIR COUNTRY DURING RECENT WEEKS BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THEIR LIVES WERE ENDANGERED. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE WIDEST POSSIBLE USE OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES ON GUAM FOR A TEMPORARY RESTAGING SITE IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY BURDEN ON YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 114614

LET ME TRY TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

YOU RAISED:

1. WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE REFUGEES ON GUAM? WE VIEW GUAM AS A TEMPORARY RESTAGING CENTER FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHERE INTERESTED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OFFICES FOR THE PERIOD REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. AT THE PRESENT TIME MOST OF THE REFUGEES ARE MOVING FROM GUAM TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. SOME HAVE BEGUN MOVING TO CANADA AS WELL. WE HAVE LAUNCHED A VIGOROUS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION TO THIRD COUNTRIES AND HOPE THAT DURING THE COMING WEEKS OTHER COUNTRIES WILL OPEN IMMIGRATION OFFICES. WE ARE UNSURE HOW LONG THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS WILL TAKE, BUT WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MOVE THE REFUGEES FROM GUAM WITH REASONABLE DISPATCH.

2. WHAT HEALTH HAZARDS WILL THESE REFUGEES PLACE UPON THE LOCAL RESIDENTS? WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE REFUGEES HAVE POSED ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUAM OR THAT THEY WILL DO SO IN THE FUTURE. I AM ENCLOSING A COPY OF THE WEEKLY REPORT OF THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL FOR MAY 3, 1975 WHICH DISCUSSES IN SOME DETAIL THE HEALTH STATUS OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. AS YOU WILL ALREADY HAVE NOTED, THESE PEOPLE ARE REMARKABLY HEALTHY.

3. WILL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN FOOD, SHELTER AND SUPPLIES FOR THESE PEOPLE? THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEE CARE AND MAINTENANCE.

4. WHAT SECURITY CAN BE PROVIDED TO ASSURE THE TERRITORY THAT THESE REFUGEES WILL BE PREVENTED FROM BECOMING ILLEGAL ALIENS OF GUAM? ONLY THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO INDICATE THAT THEY WISH TO SETTLE ON GUAM WHO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS, SUCH AS PROPER SPONSORSHIP FOR PAROLE INTO THE COMMUNITY; WILL BE ALLOWED TO BECOME PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF GUAM. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DETAIN ANY VIETNAMESE REFUGEE FOUND IN THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY WHO CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE HIS STATUS AND TO TURN SUCH INDIVIDUALS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 114614

OVER TO IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OFFICIALS FOR APPROPRIATE DISPOSITION.

5. WILL THE PEOPLE BE REIMBURSED FOR WHATEVER PUBLIC FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO AID THE REFUGEES? WHEN FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REIMBURSE THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM FOR ANY EXPENDITURES OF PUBLIC FUNDS WHICH HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY REQUESTED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT

OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, PROVIDE RE-
IMBURSEMENT FOR PUBLIC FUNDS WHICH WE HAVE NOT SPECIFICALLY
REQUESTED.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FULLY YOUR FIRST OBLIGATION AS A
SENATOR TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
CONTRADICTS THIS OBLIGATION. WE LOOK UPON THE GUAM
RESTAGING CENTER AS A TEMPORARY FACILITY, WHICH WE WILL
BE ABLE TO CLOSE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, TO HELP
THE ONWARD FLOW OF REFUGEES TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED
STATES AND TO THIRD COUNTRIES. WE APPRECIATE YOUR
UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOR. IF YOU
HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, I HOPE YOU WILL TAKE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE AGAIN. SINCERELY, L. DEAN BROWN,
DIRECTOR, INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE.

4. SIGNED ORIGINAL FOLLOWS WITH ATTACHMENT. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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